

Table 12-6 **Ratio¹ of median annual earnings of all wage and salary workers ages 25–34 whose highest education level was grades 9–11, some college, or a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with those with a high school diploma or GED, by sex: 1970–97**

Year	Grades 9–11		Some college		Bachelor's degree or higher	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1970	0.83	0.59	1.09	1.20	1.24	1.82
1971	0.84	0.64	1.05	1.15	1.22	1.87
1972	0.79	0.63	1.01	1.18	1.18	1.79
1973	0.83	0.70	0.99	1.27	1.16	1.78
1974	0.81	0.62	1.02	1.19	1.14	1.74
1975	0.78	0.64	1.07	1.24	1.17	1.72
1976	0.78	0.61	1.03	1.14	1.19	1.58
1977	0.77	0.63	1.02	1.23	1.18	1.53
1978	0.77	0.54	1.05	1.17	1.18	1.55
1979	0.76	0.70	1.06	1.19	1.16	1.55
1980	0.73	0.65	1.04	1.24	1.19	1.52
1981	0.73	0.61	1.07	1.23	1.29	1.54
1982	0.71	0.66	1.12	1.21	1.34	1.63
1983	0.70	0.66	1.13	1.24	1.35	1.67
1984	0.63	0.56	1.15	1.21	1.36	1.61
1985	0.70	0.63	1.19	1.18	1.50	1.69
1986	0.69	0.65	1.18	1.21	1.50	1.78
1987	0.72	0.67	1.13	1.25	1.49	1.78
1988	0.68	0.56	1.10	1.31	1.42	1.81
1989	0.70	0.63	1.12	1.32	1.45	1.93
1990	0.71	0.58	1.14	1.34	1.48	1.92
1991	0.64	0.64	1.14	1.32	1.53	1.90
1992	0.68	0.76	1.13	1.34	1.60	2.00
1993	0.67	0.59	1.12	1.31	1.57	1.99
1994 ²	0.67	0.58	1.14	1.20	1.52	1.86
1995 ²	0.74	0.61	1.11	1.28	1.55	1.91
1996	0.69	0.64	1.14	1.27	1.56	1.88
1997	0.71	0.63	1.11	1.22	1.50	1.91

¹ This ratio is most useful when compared with 1.0. For example, the ratio of 1.50 in 1997 for males whose highest education level was a bachelor's degree or higher means that they earned 50 percent more than males who had a high school diploma or GED. The ratio of 0.71 in 1997 for males whose highest education level was grades 9–11 means that they earned 29 percent less than males who had a high school diploma or GED.

² Data revised from previously published figures.

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 59* for further discussion. In 1994, the survey instrument for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 51* for further discussion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.